



# ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

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Produced by the Kentucky Department of Education

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## Kentucky graduation rate third most improved

Kentucky's graduation rate moved from 63.7 percent for the class of 2000 to 77.2 percent for the class of 2010 (the latest data available), an increase of 13.5 points and the third most improved among all states.

During the same time the national graduation rate improved 7.9 percentage points to 74.7 percent.

The data is reported in a special issue of *Education Week* (a national publication that focuses on P-12 education) called "Diploma Counts." The report examines high school graduation and issues related to late-secondary schooling and the transition to postsecondary education and employment. The report can be viewed online at [www.edweek.org/go/dc13](http://www.edweek.org/go/dc13).

"In just 10 years, Kentucky has made significant progress in increasing the percentage of students who graduate from high school. It's taken a coordinated effort by teachers, administrators, parents, business leaders and community members to keep our students in school and on track for graduation," Gov. Steve Beshear said. "A high school diploma is the gateway to postsecondary education and the workplace,

*See Graduation rate, Page 2*



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## PTA School of Excellence honor information

The National PTA School of Excellence program helps PTAs strengthen the family-school partnership and make measurable progress together in education, health and safety, and arts and cultural exploration.

PTA partners with National PTA Schools of Excellence for continuous school improvement in an effort to make families feel empowered to support student success.

Parents can help a school become a National PTA School of Excellence by enrolling prior to Sept. 1.

[Click here](#) to enroll or call toll-free (800) 307-4782 to receive the *Getting Started Guide*. You'll also:

- conduct a Family-School Partnership Scan and share results with National PTA
- receive a customized *Roadmap to Excellence* containing recommendations that respond to specific results from the Family-School Partnership Scan
- complete the National PTA School of Excellence application before June 1, 2014
- celebrate, as all Schools of Excellence get a celebration activities toolkit

For more information, e-mail [excellence@pta.org](mailto:excellence@pta.org).

### *Graduation rate, from Page 1*

leads to personal success and a more robust economy for all Kentuckians."

The upward trend in the graduation rate continues to be driven by strong improvements among minority students.

| Public high school graduation rates<br>Class of 2010 |          |        |
|--|----------|--------|
|  | Kentucky | Nation |
| <b>All Students</b>                                  | 77.2     | 74.7   |
| <b>Male</b>  | 76.6     | 71.9   |
| <b>Female</b>  | 82.9     | 78.4   |
| <b>Asian</b>   | 83.9     | 81.1   |
| <b>Latino</b>  | 76.4     | 68.1   |
| <b>Black</b>   | 73.7     | 67.7   |
| <b>White</b>   | 79.3     | 79.6   |

"While we have shown drastic improvement in the graduation rate, we still have a long way to go," said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. "Our goal is that every student not only graduates from high school, but also graduates ready for college and career."

The report shows in Kentucky, more than 11,000 students in the class of 2013 failed to earn a diploma. That translates into 64 students dropping out of high school each day – of which nearly 74 percent are white, 61 percent male and 72 percent are without a job.

"Senate Bill 97 will help keep these students in school by raising the compulsory school age to 18, once 55 percent of districts adopt the policy," Beshear said. "It will be good for them and good for Kentucky to have these students working toward their diploma and a more productive life."

"The governor, first lady and Kentucky lawmakers have been huge advocates for students completing high school, and we are grateful for their support," Holliday said. "We must continue to work on keeping students in school and graduating college/career-ready; we also must develop innovative strategies to return students who leave school without a diploma back to the education system."

The Editorial Projects in Education Research Center uses the Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI) to calculate graduation rates for the Diplomas Count report. The CPI represents the high school experience as a process rather than a single event, capturing four key steps a student must take in order to graduate: three grade-to-grade promotions (9 to 10, 10 to 11 and 11 to 12) and ultimately earning a diploma (grade 12 to graduation). Each of these individual components corresponds to a grade-promotion ratio. Multiplying the four grade-specific promotion ratios together produces the graduation rate, the percent of public school 9th graders who will complete high school on time with a regular diploma.

**USDA'S SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM**

# All bite and no hunger

**Kentucky Summer Feeding Program ready to serve students who might be missing meals**

Children attend school to get an education. A byproduct of that concept is that many children also go to school to eat.

Deanna Tackett, director of the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of School and Community Nutrition, recently spoke at the Jefferson County Summer Feeding Program Kickoff. She said many people don't realize that when schools let out for the summer, lots of needy children nationwide don't get to eat.

"On average, Kentucky serves close to 2 million meals during the Summer Feeding Program per year," Tackett said. "The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers the [Summer Food Service Program](#) for that reason.

"If parents know that they just don't have the money to feed their children during the summer, there may be summer feeding sites in their community that they can locate."



**Jefferson County school district students enjoy a free lunch recently at C.B. Young Service Center. Students were eating both in and outside of the Bus Stop Café, a traveling bus that will feed school children throughout the summer.**

Summer feeding sites have been set up and are running throughout Kentucky. To find a location near you, contact your child's school or local newspaper.

Parents are asked to share this information with community partners, schools and any needy families that might benefit from this program. For more information, e-mail [kdesumme@education.ky.gov](mailto:kdesumme@education.ky.gov).





## Student device use on the rise

Project Tomorrow recently released the report "From Chalkboards to Tablets: The Emergence of the K-12 Digital Learner" at a Congressional briefing held in Washington, D.C. Key findings from this year's report include:

- With smartphone usage dramatically on the rise, 65 percent of students in grades 6-8 and 80 percent of students in grades 9-12 are smartphone users. A main concern among today's digital learners is how to leverage the unique features of different devices, from laptops to smartphones to tablets or digital readers, and use them for certain academic tasks.
- While only 21 percent of teachers in middle and high schools are assigning weekly Internet homework, 69 percent of high school seniors, 61 percent of freshmen and 47 percent of 6th graders are online at least weekly to find resources to support their homework.
- In just one year, the number of middle school students with a personally acquired digital reader more than doubled from 17 percent in 2011 to 39 percent in 2012.
- In fall 2011, 26 percent of students in grades 6-8 said they had a personal tablet computer. In one year's time, the percentage of middle school students with tablets jumped to 52 percent, doubling the 2011 percentage.
- Despite this increase of student mobile devices, schools are still reluctant to allow them. Among high school students with smartphones, only half say they may use their device at school and only 9 percent of students say they can use their personal tablets at school. With 73 percent of high school seniors saying they have a laptop, only 18 percent of students in the Class of 2013 said they were allowed to use their personal laptop at school.

For more information, [click here](#).

[Click here to download the PDF of the report.](#)

[Click here to view the report in HTML.](#)

## KDE news

### **Board approves science standards, names Districts of Innovation**

The Kentucky Board of Education approved the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) at its meeting recently. See [news release](#) for more information.

### **Board reiterates support of Senate Bill 1, new standards**

Recently, the Kentucky Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution reiterating its support of Senate Bill 1 (2009), the Kentucky Core Academic Standards and a commitment to the goal of college/career-readiness for all Kentucky high school graduates. See [news release](#) for more information.

### **New app provides instant access to education information**

Android phone and tablet users have a new app available that compiles content from the Kentucky Department of Education to enhance communication on education-related matters across the state. See [news release](#) for more information.

### **Allen receives Joseph Kelly Award**

The Kentucky Board of Education presented Louisville businessman Jim Allen with the 13th annual Joseph W. Kelly Award. See [news release](#) for more information.

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